



GOVERNOR GRETCHEN WHITMER

INVESTING IN SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN

The Whitmer-Gilchrist administration has invested in every region of Michigan to deliver on the kitchen-table issues that matter most to families, communities, and small businesses.

Growing Southwest Michigan's economy

- Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) investments:
 - Over \$50 million invested to support over 90 Business Development projects projected to create nearly 3,500 jobs and leverage over \$3 billion in private investment.
 - \$102 million to support over 80 Community Development projects, leveraging more than \$300 million in private investment and reactivating more than 3.7 million square feet of public space.
- Delivered \$20 million to support over 2,300 businesses and retain more than 25,500 jobs through COVID, with 35% of relief going to geographically disadvantaged areas.

Empowering workers in Southwest Michigan

- 9,841 Michigan Reconnect applicants in Southwest Michigan are on tuition-free paths to higher education or skills training.
- 8,362 Futures for Frontliners in Southwest Michigan who served on the frontlines of the pandemic have been accepted to get on tuition-free paths to receiving a diploma or attending community college.
- Created 2,601 new registered apprenticeships with a focus on supporting opportunities for underrepresented populations: veterans, women, people of color, those with disabilities, and young Michiganders.
- COVID relief:
 - Saved 8,132 jobs with Workshare program which allowed employees to collect unemployment benefit while working part-time.
 - Set up two virtual job fairs connecting 55 employers to over 170 job-seekers.

Fixing roads, bridges, pipes, and parks in Southwest Michigan

- Fixed 1,426 lane miles of road and 94 bridges, supporting 9,960 jobs.
- Invested \$15.5 million to upgrade or repair state and local parks.
- Invested \$104 million into water infrastructure in Southwest Michigan to upgrade sewer systems, replaced lead pipes, and protected safe drinking water for families.

Investing in students and schools in Southwest Michigan

- Increased per-pupil funding by 16%, or \$1,279, for every student in Southwest Michigan since taking office.
- Expanded access to free preschool through the Great Start Readiness Program to 3,625 kids in Southwest Michigan.
- Raised childcare funding per kid in Southwest Michigan by 145%.

Building housing and keeping families in their homes in Southwest Michigan

- Constructed 800 affordable, attainable housing units.
- Helped 724 families with mortgages and down payments.
- Kept 11,575 families in their homes with rental assistance.
- Delivered emergency rental assistance to 19,765 families.

Proposals to cut taxes for seniors and working families in Southwest Michigan

- Governor Whitmer's proposal to roll back the retirement tax would save 44,700 families in Southwest Michigan an average of \$1,000 a year, putting \$44.7 million back in people's pockets and the local economy.
- Governor Whitmer's proposal to triple Michigan's Earned Income Tax Credit would deliver an average combined tax refund of \$3,000 to 67,700 working families in Southwest Michigan, putting \$203.1 million in people's pockets and the local economy.